

Message Text

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51

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SUBJECT: MULTIPARTY DOCUMENT

REF BA 6518 AND BA 5661

1. SUMMARY. WHILE INITIALLY DISINTERESTED, CONSERVATIVE WING OF PERONIST PARTY EVENTUALLY JOINED WITH GELBARD-ORIENTED FORCES AND WORKED OUT WITH UCR AND OTHER PARTIES A SIXTEEN-POINT DOCUMENT OUTLINING COINCIDENCES OF VIEWS. SIGNIFICANCE IS NOT SO MUCH IN POINTS THEMSELVES, WHICH MAY HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL IMPACT AND APPEAR TO CONTAIN NOTHING VERY NEW, BUT RATHER A RENEWED APPRECIATION DOCUMENT SUGGESTS ON PART OF GOVERNMENT IN DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS POLITICS. END SUMMARY

2. THE JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY JULY 29 MULTIPARTY MEETING (BA 5661) HAS NOW PRODUCED A DOCUMENT LISTING SIXTEEN BASIC POINTS WHICH BOTH FREJULI AND OPPOSITION PARTIES (AT LEAST SOME OF THEM) AGREE SHOULD REPRESENT THE MAJOR GUIDELINES BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO RULE THE COUNTRY. THOUGH THE DOCUMENT ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED IN FULL, PRESS REPORTS

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INDICATE THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS CONCERN: A) CONDEMNATION OF

VIOLENCE, B) PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES, C) CONTINUED RELIANCE ON POLITICAL PARTIES AS MAJOR INSTRUMENT OF DEMOCRATIC EXPRESSION, AND D) GUARANTEES REGARDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THE LAST POINT IS CONSIDERED OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN VIEW OF ONGOING DEBATE BETWEEN PERONISTS AND UCR OVER GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE TV STATIONS AND THE CLOSURE OF NOTICIAS AND SOME OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

3. THE DOCUMENT IS SIGNED BY THE FREJULI PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PERONISTS, BY THE UCR AND A NUMBER OF SMALLER PARTIES SUCH AS THE POPULAR SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNIST PARTY, AND BY BOTH THE CGT AND CGE. THOUGH THE FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE WORDING OF THE SIXTEEN POINTS WAS REACHED AUG 26, THE STILL HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC--APPARENTLY BECAUSE EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING TO SECURE THE ENDORSEMENT OF OSCAR ALENDE'S INTRANSIGENTES, THEDY'S PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS, FRANCISCO MARIQUE'S FEDERALIST PARTY, AND AMERICO GHIOLDI'S PSD, ALL OF WHICH ABSTAINED--NOT SURPRISINGLY, SINCE ALL ALSO HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE JULY 29 MEETING.

4. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING ABOUT THE DOCUMENT IS THAT, WHATEVER ITS PRACTICAL RESULTS, IT INDICATES RENEWED EMPHASIS ON DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS ON PART OF THE GOVERNING PERONIST FORCES. THE ORIGINAL MULTIPARTY MEETING BACK ON JULY 29 WAS CONSIDERED TO BE PRETTY MUCH A DUILIO BRUNELLO (AND, THUS, GELBARD) AFFAIR. LOPEZ REGA WAS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN LESS THAN PLEASED AND THE CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE PARTY DISPLAYED LITTLE INTEREST. BE THAT AS IT MAY, SUBSEQUENTLY MODERATE-CONSERVATIVE PERONISTS (DOUBTLESS SPURRED ON BY RAUL LASTIRI AND ALBERTO ROCAMORA) BEGAN TO TAKE A MARKED INTEREST IN THE IDEA AND ADOLFO VAZQUEZ PENA, ONE OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE JUSTICIALISTA PARTY, WAS SENT TO REPRESENT THE ORTHODOX VIEW AT THE WORKING SESSIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE. IN PART, THIS REFLECTS THE INCREASING WEIGHT GIVEN TO THE COUNSEL OF LASTIRI AND ROCAMORA (SEE SEPTTEL), AND IN PART THE DEVELOPING AGREEMENT BETWEEN GELBARD AND LOPEZ REGA (WHICH SURFACED WITH THE LAS BASES COVER STORY--BA 6518).

5. THE SIXTEEN POINTS APPEAR TO CONTAIN LITTLE THAT IS NEW. IN FACT, THEY ARE STRONGLY REMINISCENT OF THE FOURTEEN POINT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PACT OF GUARANTEES SIGNED BY THE PERONISTS, UCR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HORA DEL PUEBLO IN JULY OF 1972. AND FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, THEY MAY HAVE LITTLE IMPACT. WHATEVER THEY SAY ABOUT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN THE SIXTEEN POINTS, THE PERONISTS MAY INTERPRET SUCH FREEDOMS VERY DIFFERENTLY FROM THE UCR. NONETHELESS, THE SIXTEEN POINT DOCUMENT GIVES CONSENSUS POLITICAS A NEEDED PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST.
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